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35th Legislative District

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2012 Legislative Survey Results

Dear Neighbor:

During the regular legislative session earlier this year, with the Legislature facing a \$1.5 billion budget shortfall, I circulated a survey asking you to share your concerns and priorities with me. More than 500 of you responded, with many of you providing additional comments and many others asking me to share the results. Those results are presented in this newsletter update on the special legislative session that began in March.

I like to survey the district every year or two because I think it's important to know the district's pulse. I believe my role as your elected representative is to bring your voice and your priorities to Olympia, and I can only do that if I know what you care about most. That's why, even though I grew up here and have represented the district for 22 years in the Legislature, I make it a point to get around the district and talk to as many of you in person as I can. I think you'll see that the results of the survey show that I take your views seriously and that I fairly and consistently represent your priorities. As an example of that, of the 272 recorded votes taken by the Senate in 2012, I didn't miss a single one.

As we continue to negotiate a budget in special session, I can't predict what kind of compromise will finally win passage. But I can tell you what principles I will maintain.

In the regular session, I voted for a budget that would have balanced the budget without raising taxes, would not have spent more money than is coming in the door, and would have left a reasonable ending fund balance to serve us the rest of the biennium. I will stand by those principles on any budget vote during the special session. I will not vote for any budget proposal that postpones our obligation to fully fund education into the next biennium or which fails to protect the seniors who constitute much of our most vulnerable population.

As always, my ears and my office are open to your calls, letters and emails. If you have a concern, I want to hear it. I also want to thank everyone who took the time to respond to this year's survey and share their thoughts.

Sincerely,

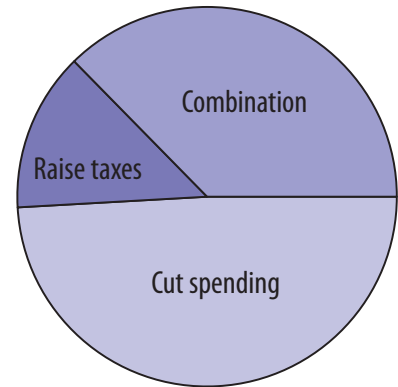
Tim Sheldon

State Senator, 35th Legislative District

2012 Legislative Survey Results

1. Given the state's \$1.5 billion revenue shortfall, how do you think we should balance the budget?

Cut spending, with no new taxes or fees 49.3%
Raise taxes, don't make any more cuts 13.6%
A combination of spending cuts and tax hikes . . . 37.5%



2. Realizing that 70 percent of the budget is protected, which of the remaining services would you cut? (Services are ranked from 1 to 8, with 1 being the services respondents said they value least and 8 being the services respondents said they value the most).

The scores to this question are represented by a value to the right that represents the comparative support each service received from the total respondents. This figure is not a percentage and should not be confused for such.

Public services

Average score

1. State agency staffing cuts	2.59
2. Social services	4.13
3. Parks and natural resources	4.35
4. Early learning (pre-grade-school education)	4.48
5. Corrections	4.71
6. Higher education	4.83
7. "Non-basic" K-12 education	5.04
8. Health care (including senior services)	5.87

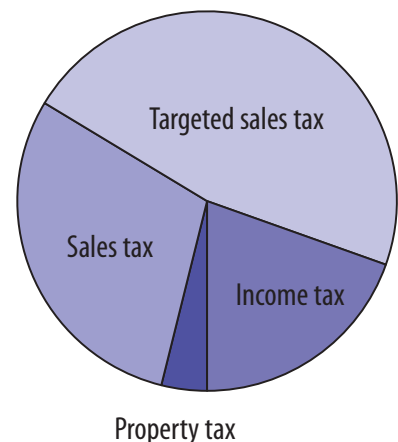
Least valued



Most valued

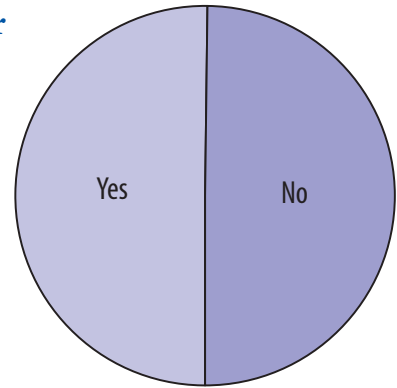
3. If the Legislature were to raise taxes, how do you think it should be done?

Property tax 4.6%
Sales tax 35.3%
A targeted sales tax, such as for alcohol or cigarettes . . . 55.5%
A personal income tax 23.2%



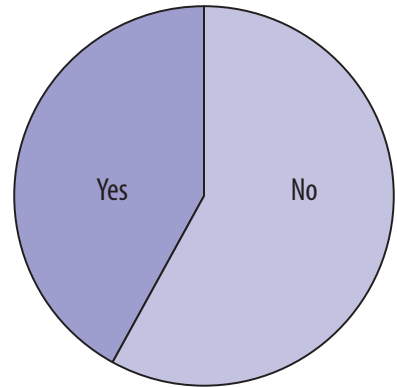
4. Have you or someone in your family been laid off or had your hours cut due to the recession?

Yes 50.3%
No 49.9%



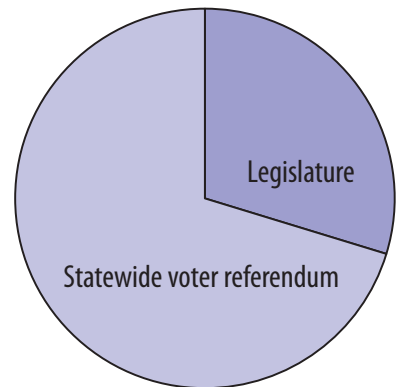
5. Do you think the state should legalize same-sex marriage?

Yes 42.0%
No 58.0%



6. Do you think same-sex marriage should be decided by the Legislature or by the voters in a statewide referendum?

Legislature 29.9%
Statewide voter referendum..... 70.7%



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As you may have heard, the 35th Legislative District will change in November under a redistricting plan that reflects the population shifts indicated by the 2010 Census. Here's what it will look like. On the left is the district as it is currently configured; on the right is what it will look like in November 2012.

